

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07846 091345Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /094 W
-----092022Z 095252 /63

R 091223Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4864
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASUCS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EG LY
SUBJ: LIBYAN DEVELOPMENTS IN CAIRO PRESS MAY 9

1. GUMHURIYYA MAY 9 DEVOTES FRONT-PAGE, FIRST-LEAD COVERAGE
TO STATEMENT BY PRIMIN SALIM, DURING SPEECH PREVIOUS DAY
IN DAMIETTA, THAT EGYPT WOULD NEVER USE ARMS AGAINST ANY
OTHER ARAB COUNTRY, INCLUDING LIBYA. SALIM NOTED THAT
QADHAFI DECEIVING ARAB OPINION BY CONTINUED CLAIMS THAT
EGYPT THREATENING LIBYA WITH MILITARY ACTIONS. LIBYA
ITSELF IS MENACE, SINCE QADHAFI SENDING INFILTRATORS
ACROSS NOT ONLY EGYPTIAN BORDERS BUT OTHER FRONTIERS
AS WELL.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 07846 091345Z

2. ELSEWHERE, LOCA DAILIES REPORTED THAT SEVERAL
UNIDENTIFIED LIBYAN MILITARY UNITS HAD RECENTLY FLED TO
ALGERIA, AFTER ABORTIVE COUP D'ETAT AGAINST QADHAFI IN TRIPOLI.
UNITS REPORTEDLY DEFECTED WITH THEIR WEAPONS AND PRESENCE
OF DISAFFECTED LIBYAN UNITS IN ALGERIA ALLEGEDLY NECESSITATED
SUDDEN TRIP BY LINBYAN EX-PM JALLOUD TO ALGERIA DURING PAST
WEEK.

3. DAILIES ALSO CARRY REPORTS OF LIBYAN MEDDLING IN SE ASIA, REPORTING THAT QADHAFI RECENTLY SENT SPECIAL ENVOY TO SINGAPORE TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE ALLEGEDLY REJECTED LIBYAN OVERTURE, IN PART DUE TO "ARROGANT" ATTITUDE OF LIBYAN ENVOY. MENA STORY DATED JAKARTA ALSO REPORTS THAT QADHAFI FINANCED INDONESIAN OPPOSITION ELEMENTS DURING RECENT INDONESIAN ELECTIONS. QADHAFI ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS CALLING THEMSELVES "HOLLY JIHAD PARTY."

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN LEADERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BELITTLED LIBYAN CHARGES CONCERNING HOSTILE EGYPTIAN MILITARY INTENTIONS, SALIM DECLARATION IS FIRST UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT BY SENIOR GOE OFFICIAL DURING RECENT EGYPTIAN/ LIBYAN IMBROGLIO THAT EGYPT RULES OUT ANY USE OF FORCE AGAINST ANOTHER ARAB STATE. SINCE SALIM DOES NOT USUALLY GET OUT IN FRONT OF GOE IN FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS, EMBASSY CURIOUS TO SEE IF SALIM BLANKET REJECTION OF FORCE AGAINST LIBYA WILL BE PICKED UP BY OTHER SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS (I.E., FONMIN FAHMY)
EILTS

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